

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NDJAME 02790 281756Z

50

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 PC-01 SWF-01

AGR-05 EB-04 OES-02 INR-05 DODE-00 INRE-00 RSC-01

IO-04 INT-05 COME-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 L-01

IGA-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 /072 W

----- 018813

O R 281515Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8710

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2790

AFDROUGHT

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EAID, CD

SUBJ: PRESIDENT CONFIRM REJECTION FURTHER US FOOD AID IN
PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: NDJAMENA 2772

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING TWO HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE OCT 26
PRESIDENT ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO US DROUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE AND
CRITICAL NY TIMES ARTICLE, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS. PRESIDENT DENIED
ANY IMPROPRIETY IN HANDLING FOODSTUFFS ON PART HIMSELF OR WIFE;
CRITICIZED DONORS AID, CITING USG REQUEST CHADIANS ABSORB AIRLIFT
PERSONNEL HOTEL BILL AND NY TIMES CRITICISM DISTRIBUTION PATTERN;
DESCRIBED NY TIMES AS ADVOCATE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO GAVE GIFTS;
SAID PEOPLE OF CHAD NOW RETURN GRAIN AT MAIDUGURI TO PEOPLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NDJAME 02790 281756Z

OF AMERICA; AND DENIED HE HAS ANY QUARREL WITH US GOVERNMENT.

END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE HELD TWO HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE LATE AFTERNOON OCT 26, BROADCAST LIVE. SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON INTERNAL SUBJECTS PRECEDED QUESTIONS FROM FLOOR. THIRTEEN MINUTES OF CONFERENCE DEALT WITH US DROUGHT ASSISTANCE, FOLLOWING QUESTION BY RESIDENT AFP CORRESPONDANT WHO ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON NY TIMES ARTICLE CRITICIZING GOC HANDLING DROUGHT RELIEF (HENRY KAMM, OCT 10) AND ASKED WHETHER DECISION TERMINATE USAF AIRLIFT WAS CONFINED TO AIRLIFT OR WHETHER IT APPLIED TO ALL DROUGHT RELIEF FROM US.

3. PERSONAL ALLEGATIONS: PRESIDENT BEGAN REPLY BY NOTING THAT AMERICAN JOURNALIST STATED HE HAD TALKED WITH US AND FRENCH EMBASSIES (LATTER DENIED BY FRENCH, INCIDENTALLY), FED, AND GOC, AND THAT PRINCIPAL ACCUSATION WAS THAT DONATED CEREALS USED FOR PERSONAL PROFIT PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE. PRESIDENT DENIED AT LENGTH ALLEGATIONS THAT WIFE CONTROLS TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN, SAYING WIFE IS ILLITERATE "WHICH IS WAY I WISH IT, IT'S BETTER," LEADS SEQUESTERED LIFE, COMPLETELY INNOCENT ANY IDEA OF COMMERCE, ETC., ALONG LINES PREVIOUS REPORTED PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. PRESIDENT DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT THESE REPORTS HAD CHADIAN RATHER THAN FOREIGN ORIGINS, ADDING "I KNOW THE NAME OF CE PETIT MONSIEUR."

4. DISTRIBUTION AREAS: PRESIDENT NOTED THAT AMERICAN CHARGE AND USAF PERSONNEL CALLED ON GOC DROUGHT COORDINATOR DJONOUMA WHO TOLE THEM THAT THE 2,000 TONS IN NDJAMENA (SIC, PRESIDENT PRESUMABLY MEANT MAIDUGURI) SHOULD BE SENT WHERE URGENCY WAS GREATEST, I.E. 1,700 TONS (SIC) TO BET, PZZN OUADDAI, AND BILTINE (SIC). PRESIDENT NOTED GOC THUS SHOWING ITS CONCERN FOR CHADIAN ISLAMIC POPULATION BUT THAT JOURNALIST SAID THESE PEOPLE NATURALLY USED TO DROUGHT, WHILE AMERICAN AIRPLANES ARE EXPENSIVE. PRESIDENT MAINTAINED THAT ALL AID MUST BE PUT IN HANDS OF PROPER GOC AUTHORITIES WHO BEST KNOW SITUATION IN COUNTRY. COMMENT: PRESIDENT EITHER UNFAMILIAR ACTUAL LOO OR AIRLIFT OR OBFUSCATING ISSUE PURPOSELY. ARTICLE CRITICIZED PLACEMENT 1,000 OUT OF 2,000 TONS TOTAL IN BET.

5. HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS FOR USAF: "WHAT I'VE FORGOTTEN TO SAY,"
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NDJAME 02790 281756Z

THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED, IS THAT WHEN THE AMERICANS ARRIVED, THEY WANTED THE CHADIAN STATE TO PAY FOR THEIR LODGING AT THE HOTEL TCHADIENNE. DJONOUMA TOLD THEM, THE PRESIDENT SAID; "BUT YOU BRING US AID, YOU KNOW WE ARE IN HARD STRAITS, THERE ARE FORTY OF YOU, THE HOTEL COSTS SO MUCH A DAY, IF ONE IS PAYING 6,000 CFA PER PERSON PER DAY, PLUS BREAKFAST.....THAT'S NOT AID." THEY ASKED TO SEE ME THAT I MIGHT ARBITRATE THE AFFAIR, I HAD THEM TOLD THAT IF IT'S IN ORDER TO OBTAIN FREE LODGING AT

THE TCHADIENNE IT'S NOT WORTH WHILE AS DJONOUA HAD GIVEN THEM THEIR ANSWER. THAT I DIDN'T RECEIVE THEM LED TO THE RESULT WITH WHICH YOU ARE FAMILIAR, THE CALUMNIES THAT YOU KNOW, THE WICKEDNESS THAT HAS BEEN SPIT UPON OUR COUNTRY...." ETC. COMMENT: QUESTION OF LODGING WAS SETTLED BETWEEN EMB AND DJONOUA DAY BEFORE PRESIDENT BECAME AWARE OF NY TIMES ARTICLE. ONE-THIRD TO BE PAID BY GOC OUTRIGHT, OTHER TWO-THIRDS TO BE DEPOSITED BY USG IN ACCOUNT FOR AGREED UPON DROUGHT RELIEF PROJECTS. UNLIKELY THAT DJONOUA WOULD HAVE AGREED THIS FORMULA WITHOUT GENERAL CONCURRENCE PRESIDENT.

6. FUTURE AMERICAN AID: "WHEN ONE BRINGS AID, THIS AID IS AT THE DISPOSITION OF NDJAMENA; THE CHADIAN AUTHORITIES DECIDES ON ITS SHARING OUT, ITS DISTRIBUTION....WHATEVER COUNTRY, NOT SOLELY THE UNITED STATES, WHICH PRETENDS TO BRING US AID,.... AND DOESN'T WANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT (TO DETERMINE) WHAT HAPPENS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY, WE HAVE NO FURTHER NEED OF THAT AID." THE EDITORS OF THE ARTICLE ARE THE ADVOCATES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, SAID THE PRESIDENT WARMING TO THE SUBJECT, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN COME GET THEIR AID IN MAIDUGURI AND GIVE IT TO LESS DEMANDING COUNTRIES. "THIS CEREAL, STOCKED AT MAIDUGURI, CHAD DOES NOT WANT IT. WE RETURN IT TO THE DISPOSITION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE." THEN, SOMEWHAT DISJOINTEDLY, THE PRESIDENT SAID "WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT..., OUR RELATIONS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE HAVE NOT ALTERED." CONDEMNING THE JOURNALIST ONE FINAL TIME, THE PRESIDENT REPEATED THAT "WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. THE CEREAL BELONGS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE...THE CHADIAN PEOPLE GIVE IT BACK TO THEM TO DISPOSE OF; WE DO NOT WANT IT."

7. PRESS TREATMENT OF CONFERENCE: INFOTCHAD DEVOTED ITS ISSUE OF OCT 28 TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT ONLY TWO PARAGRAPHS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NDJAME 02790 281756Z

TO THE ABOVE, UNDER THE HEADING OF "BAD FAITH OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST." REPEATED PROBLEM OF HOTEL, ACCUSATION AGAINST WIFE, RIGHT OF DISTRIBUTION, RETURN OF CEREAL TO AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND NO PROBLEM WITH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT."

8. COMMENT: PRESIDENT HAD TAKEN CONSIDERABLE LIBERTY WITH FACTS OF PAST FEW WEEKS. DESPITE CONTINUED EMB INSISTENCE THAT USG HAS ABSOLUTELY NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARTICLES IN PRIVATE US PRESS, PRESIDENT, ON EMOTIONAL LEVEL, IS NOT HAVING ANY. EMB RECOMMENDS HOWEVER AGAINST DETAILED OR ACCUSATORY PUBLIC REPUDIATION TOMBALBAYE PRESENTATION OF HIS CASE AT THIS TIME AS LIKELY TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. WE SHOULD TAKE SUFFICIENT TIME CONSIDER CAREFULLY OUR INTEREST IN PROVISION NON-FOOD AID TO CHAD AND THEN PROCEED IN LIGHT THESE INTERESTS. EMB WILL BE COMMENTING SOON ON NON-FOOD ASPECTS USG AID IN PRESENT SITUATION.

DWYER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, PRESS COMMENTS, AFDROUGHT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NDJAME02790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740307-0450
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741012/aaaaajmv.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NDJAMENA 2772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT CONFIRM REJECTION FURTHER US FOOD AID IN PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EAID, CD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005